**[Conservative donor network distances itself from GOP and Trump, citing ‘divisiveness of this White House](https://s2.washingtonpost.com/87b12f/5b5ee1affe1ff616fd8c43b1/Y25tbm5ld21hbkBnbWFpbC5jb20%3D/8/72/ca94d452a8487f18bc32daf1e8a0b671)**

Officials affiliated with Charles Koch reiterated plans to spend as much as $400 million during the 2018 election cycle, but lamented the “deterioration of the core institutions of society” and “tremendous lack of leadership” in Washington.

Asked about Democrats possibly retaking control of the House, he said: “I don’t care what initials are in front, or after, somebody’s name. . . . I’d like there to be many more politicians who would embrace and have the courage to run on a platform like this.”

In reality, the network is expected to be a powerful force for the political right during the midterm elections, particularly in states where Senate Democrats are most vulnerable. It is also heavily backing the confirmation of federal judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Some of the network’s biggest donors and most experienced activists are Trump’s most ardent supporters.

But some of Trump’s most ­controversial actions break sharply with the priorities of the libertarian-leaning network, which [opposes Trump’s tariffs on foreign goods](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2018/06/04/koch-network-announces-plan-to-oppose-trump-tariffs/?utm_term=.8ddc193dfd6e) and his hard line on immigration, including the [now-suspended zero-tolerance policy](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/deleted-families-what-went-wrong-with-trumps-family-separation-effort/2018/07/28/54bcdcc6-90cb-11e8-8322-b5482bf5e0f5_story.html?utm_term=.8269e0b2d6a3) that saw hundreds of migrant families separated at the border.

The network later announced a surprisingly small list of targeted races it is currently engaged in. There are four Senate races: Wisconsin, Missouri, Tennessee and Florida. And three governor’s races: **Michigan,** Nevada and Florida. [Read more here.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/koch-group-condemns-divisiveness-and-lack-of-leadership-in-washington/2018/07/29/314398c2-933f-11e8-a679-b09212fb69c2_story.html?utm_term=.1585d2bd9c72&wpisrc=nl_headlines&wpmm=1)